

# Glossary

**ACF** *See Address Control File*

**Address Control File** A computer data base developed by the Census Bureau to control enumeration in areas with city-style addresses during the 1990 census.

**Administrative entity** A geographic area, usually with legally defined boundaries but often without elected officials, created to administer elections and other governmental functions. Administrative areas include school districts, voting districts, ZIP Codes®, and nonfunctioning MCDs such as election precincts, election districts, and assessment districts.

**AIANA** *See American Indian and Alaska Native area.*

**AIR** *See American Indian reservation.*

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC)** A corporate entity established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Twelve ANRCs have specific boundaries that together cover the state of Alaska except for the Annette Islands Reserve (an American Indian reservation). A thirteenth corporation represents Alaska Natives not resident in Alaska who do not identify with any of the other 12 corporations.

**Alaska Native village (ANV)** A type of local governmental unit found in Alaska, with boundaries identified for the Census Bureau by an appropriate authority, that constitutes an association, band, clan, community, group, tribe, or village recognized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. the Census Bureau tabulated statistical data for ANVs for the 1980 census. ANVs do not have legally defined boundaries.

**Alaska Native village statistical area (ANVSA)** A 1990 census statistical entity that represents the densely settled extent of an ANV as delineated for the Census Bureau by officials of the ANRC in which the ANVSA is

located, or by other appropriate officials, for the purpose of presenting decennial census data.

**American Indian and Alaska Native area (AIANA)** A Census Bureau term referring to these entity types: American Indian reservation, American Indian subreservation area, American Indian trust land, tribal jurisdictional statistical area, tribal designated statistical area, Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native village, and Alaska Native village statistical area.

**American Indian reservation (AIR)** An American Indian entity with boundaries established by treaty, statute, and/or executive or court order. Federal and individual state governments have established reservations as territory over which American Indians have governmental jurisdiction. These entities are designated as colonies, communities, pueblos, rancherias, reservations, and reserves. The Federally recognized reservations, their names, and their boundaries are identified for the Census Bureau by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), an agency in the US Department of the Interior; state governments identify the names and boundaries of state reservations.

**American Indian trust land** Land held in trust by the Federal government for either a tribe (tribal trust land) or an individual member of that tribe (individual trust land). Such land always is associated with a specific Federally recognized reservation or tribe, but may be located on or off the reservation. The Census Bureau recognizes and tabulates data separately only for off-reservation trust lands. The BIA identifies and provides maps of these areas for use by the Census Bureau.

**ANRC** *See Alaska Native Regional Corporation.*

**ANV** *See Alaska Native village.*

**ANVSA** *See Alaska Native village statistical area.*

**BAS** *See Boundary and Annexation Survey.*

**BG** *See block group.*

**BIA** *See Bureau of Indian Affairs.*

**Block** *See census block.*

**Block boundary** A census map feature, visible or nonvisible, that delimits a census block. Usually, it takes two or more features to delimit a census block, but a single feature may delimit a census block in the case of an island or a circumferential street.

**Block group (BG)** A combination of census blocks that is a subdivision of a census tract or BNA. A BG consists of all blocks whose numbers begin with the same digit in a given census tract or BNA; for example, BG 3 within a census tract or BNA includes all blocks numbered between 301 and 399. The BG is the lowest level of geography for which the Census Bureau has tabulated sample data in the 1990 census; it was used to tabulate sample data in the 1970 and 1980 censuses only for those areas that had block numbers. *See also block number.*

**Block number** A three-digit number, which may have a one- or two-letter alphabetic suffix for the 1990 census, that identifies a specific census block on census maps and Summary Tape Files (STFs). Block numbers are not repeated within a census tract or BNA.

**Block numbering area (BNA)** An area delineated by state officials or (lacking state participation) by the Census Bureau, following Census Bureau guidelines, for the purpose of grouping and numbering decennial census blocks in counties or statistically equivalent entities in which census tracts have not been established. A BNA is equivalent to a census tract in the Census Bureau's geographic hierarchy. *See also block numbering area number, census tract.*

**Block numbering area (BNA) number** A four-digit number, possibly with a two-digit suffix, used to identify a BNA within a county. BNA numbers range from 9501 to 9989.

**BNA** *See block numbering area.*

**Borough** In Alaska, the type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of the organized portion of the state, similar to a county in other states. In New York, a functioning MCD; the boroughs are the five entities, one for each county, that together constitute New York city. In Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, an incorporated place; in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, also a county subdivision. *See also census area, county subdivision, dependent place, incorporated place, and independent place.*

**Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)** A Census Bureau survey of a specified universe of counties (and legally equivalent entities), MCDs, and incorporated places. The purpose of the BAS is to determine the inventory of legally defined entities and the correct names, political descriptions, and legal boundaries of counties, MCDs, and incorporated places as of January 1 of the year of the survey. The survey also collects specific information on the legal actions that affect boundary changes.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)** The Federal Government agency, located in the Department of the Interior, responsible for the historic and legal relationships between the Federal Government and American Indian communities.

**CCD** *See census county division.*

**CD** *See congressional district.*

**CDP** *See census designated place.*

**Census area** The statistical equivalent of a county in Alaska. Census areas are delineated cooperatively by the state of Alaska and the Census Bureau for statistical purposes in the portion of Alaska not within an organized borough; they were used first in the 1980 census. *See also borough.*

**Census block** The smallest entity for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census information; bounded on all sides by visible and nonvisible features shown on Census Bureau maps.

**Census county division (CCD)** A statistical subdivision of a county, established cooperatively by the Census Bureau and state and local government authorities, for the presentation of decennial census data in 21 states that do not have well-defined MCDs; that is, where MCDs have not been legally established, do not serve a legal or administrative governmental purpose, are not well known, have poorly defined boundaries, and/or have frequent boundary changes. A CCD boundary normally follows visible features and county lines, but may follow corporate boundaries and other nonvisible features in selected instances. *See also county subdivision, minor civil division.*

**Census designated place (CDP)** A statistical entity, defined for each decennial census according to Census Bureau guidelines, comprising a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name. CDPs are delineated cooperatively by state and local officials and the Census Bureau, following Census Bureau guidelines. These entities were called unincorporated places for the 1940 through 1970 censuses. *See also comunidad.*

**Census feature class code (CFCC)** Developed by the Census Bureau to identify the most prominent characteristics of a feature. The CFCC, as used in the TIGER/Line<sup>®</sup> files, is a three-character code. The first character is a letter describing the feature class; the second and third characters are numbers representing the major and minor categories.

**Census statistical areas committee (CSAC)** A committee established by local officials and other interested individuals to identify, in cooperation with the Census Bureau, the census tracts, CDPs, and other statistical entities for a county. Referred to as a *census tract committee* until 1973.

**Census tract** A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county in a metropolitan area (MA) or a selected nonmetropolitan county, delineated by a local committee of census data users (a CSAC) for the purpose of presenting decennial census data. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other nonvisible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively

homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions at the time the CSAC established them, census tracts usually contain between 2,500 and 8,000 inhabitants. They may be split by any subcounty geographic entity. *See also block numbering area, census statistical areas committee, census tract number.*

**Census tract number** A four-digit number, possibly with a two-digit suffix, used to identify a census tract. Census tract numbers are always unique within a county and usually unique within an MA. Almost all census tract numbers range from 0001 to 9499. Leading zeros are not shown on the Census Bureau's maps or in its printed reports.

**Central city** The largest city of an MA or, from the 1950 through 1980 censuses, an urbanized area (UA); also included as central cities are the CDP of Honolulu in Hawaii, highly urban MCDs in Massachusetts and New Jersey, and several zonas urbanas in Puerto Rico. Central cities are a basis for establishment of an MA, and prior to the 1990 census, a UA. Additional cities that meet specific criteria also are identified as central city(ies). In a number of instances, only part of a city qualifies as central, because another part of the city extends beyond the MA boundary. *See also central place.*

**Central place** The core incorporated place(s) or CDP(s) of a UA, usually consisting of the most populous place(s) in the UA. If a central place also is defined as an extended city, only the portion of the central place contained within the UA is recognized as the central place. The term was first used for the 1990 census to recognize a CDP as the most populous place in a UA. *See also central city.*

**CFCC** *See census feature class code.*

**City** A type of incorporated place in 49 states and the District of Columbia. In 20 states, some or all cities are not part of any MCD, and the Census Bureau also treats these as county subdivisions, statistically equivalent to MCDs. *See also county subdivision, dependent place, incorporated place, independent place.*

**City-style address** An address consisting of a structure number and street name; for example, 201 Main St.

**CMSA** *See consolidated metropolitan statistical area.*

**Comunidad** A CDP in Puerto Rico for the 1990 census; formerly called an *aldea*. *See also census designated place.*

**Congressional district (CD)** An area established by state officials or the courts for the purpose of electing a person to the US House of Representatives. Within each state, these areas must contain, as nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants. The number of CDs in each state may change after each decennial census, and the boundaries may be changed more than once during a decade.

**Consolidated city** An incorporated place that has combined its governmental functions with a county or subcounty entity but contains one or more other incorporated places that continue to function as local governments within the consolidated government.

**Consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA)** A geographic entity defined by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use by Federal statistical agencies. An area becomes a CMSA if it meets the requirements to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area (MSA), has a population of 1,000,000 or more, if component parts are recognized as primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs), and local opinion favors the designation. Whole counties are components of CMSAs outside of New England, where they are composed of cities and towns instead.

**Corporate corridor** A narrow strip of land, generally consisting of all or part of the right-of-way of a road, proposed road, power line, or similar feature, that is part of an incorporated place; a corridor also may exist without relation to any accompanying visible feature.

**County** A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of every state except Alaska and Louisiana; also, a type of functioning MCD found in American Samoa. *See also borough, county equivalent, parish.*

**County code** A three-digit code assigned by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to identify each county and statistically equivalent entity within a state. The NIST assigns the codes based on the alphabetic sequence of county names; it documents these codes in a FIPS publication (FIPS PUB 6). The Census Bureau also documents these codes in its Geographic Identification Code Scheme. The NIST leaves gaps in the numbering system to accommodate new counties or statistically equivalent entities. *See also Federal Information Processing Standard, Geographic Identification Code Scheme.*

**County equivalent** A geographic entity that is not legally referred to as a county, but is recognized by the Census Bureau as equivalent to a county for purposes of data presentation. *See also borough, census area, independent city, municipio, parish, state.*

**County subdivision** A legal or statistical division of a county recognized by the Census Bureau for data presentation. *See also census county division, city, minor civil division, town, township, unorganized territory.*

**CSAC** *See Census Statistical Area Committee.*

**Dependent place** An incorporated place or CDP that is legally or statistically part of the county(ies) and/or county subdivision(s) within which it is located; the statistical data for the place also are tabulated as part of the total for the county(ies) and/or county subdivision(s) that these data are part of. There are three types of dependent places: (1) an incorporated place that is legally part of the county(ies) and/or MCD(s) within which it is located, (2) an incorporated place that is legally part of the county(ies) and statistically part of the county subdivision(s) within which it is located, and (3) a CDP that always is statistically part of the county(ies) and county subdivision(s) within which it is located. *See also incorporated place, independent place.*

**Digital Line Graph (DLG)** A computer-readable file, produced by the USGS, of geographic information that covers the same extent as a quadrangle map.

**DLG** *See Digital Line Graph.*



**Elementary school district** A school district inclusive of kindergarten through either the eighth or ninth grade or the first through either the eighth or the ninth grade. For the data tabulations from the 1980 and 1990 decennial censuses, this term includes both elementary and intermediate/middle districts. *See also intermediate/middle school district, school district, secondary school district, unified district.*

**FEAT** The TIGER/Line® file field name for the alternate feature identification code used as a pointer between record types. The FEAT links geographic objects to an alternate or secondary name.

**Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS)** Any of the standardized systems of numeric and/or alphabetic coding issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency in the US Department of Commerce, for use by the Federal Government and others. Several series of FIPS identify standard geographic codes for states, counties, metropolitan areas, congressional districts, foreign geographic entities, and named populated and related locational entities. Geographic elements to be assigned codes are first alphabetized and then assigned codes serially, generally with systematic gaps that permit additions to the list. The basic geographic code formats published in FIPS publications (FIPS PUBs) are (1) states—two digits, (2) counties and county equivalents—three digits, (3) metropolitan areas—four digits; CMSAs and the former SCSAs also have two-digit codes, (4) congressional districts—two digits, (5) foreign geographic entities—two or three digits, (6) named populated places, primary county divisions, and other locational entities used to assign codes to places, county subdivisions, and AIANAs—five digits.

**FIPS** *See Federal Information Processing Standard.*

**FIPS code** One of a series of codes, issued by the NIST, assigned for the purpose of ensuring uniform identification during computer processes involving geographic entities throughout all Federal Government programs and agencies. *See also Federal Information Processing Standard.*

**GBF/DIME-File (Geographic Base File/Dual Independent Map Encoding File)**

A geographic base file created by the Census Bureau, usually in cooperation with local officials, representing the line segments and related geographic attributes that comprised all or part of the urban cores of all metropolitan areas. Created for the 80 smaller urban cores to supplement the ACG coverage for the 1970 census and support the place of work coding operation, this format was expanded to include all urban cores for the 1980 census by converting the ACGs in a program called the ACG Improvement Program. Each file contained the name of each segment of a mapped feature, its associated address range and ZIP Code if applicable, 1980 census geographic area information for both sides of each segment, node numbers that identified feature intersections and selected points of a curved line, and x,y coordinate information for each node in the file. The file contained information describing the street network in the major urban centers, and was used to build the TIGER data base.

**Geographic code** One or more alphanumeric symbols used to identify a legal, administrative, or statistical entity. *See also Federal Information Processing Standard, GBF/DIME-File.*

**Geographic Identification Code Scheme (GICS)** A detailed listing of the geographic codes, associated names, and attributes that the Census Bureau used to identify the various legal, administrative, and statistical geographic entities of the United States in a specific census. *See also administrative entity, legal entity, statistical entity.*

**Geographic Information System (GIS)** Software that enables the processing and analysis of geographic information on a computer.

**Geographic reference file (GRF)** A generic term for a file that contains geographic information such as area names, geographic codes, and selected x,y coordinate values (entity centroid or internal point).

Geographic reference files may be used for determining the name of a particular geographic entity when only its code is known (or vice versa), and for control of geographic operations, computer mapping, and entity name placement, depending on the information contained in the specific file. *See also Geographic Identification Code Scheme, Geographic Reference File.*

**Geometry** The part of mathematics dealing with coordinate location and shape. *See also geometry and topology, topology.*

**Geometry and Topology** These combined characteristics are the logical, mathematical framework upon which geographic objects are manipulated in a GIS. *See also geometry, topology.*

**GICS** *See Geographic Identification Code Scheme.*

**GIS** *See Geographic Information System.*

**GT** *See Geometry and Topology.*

**Incorporated place** A type of governmental unit, incorporated under state law as a city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), borough (except in Alaska and New York), or village, having legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions. *See also dependent place, independent place.*

**Independent city** An incorporated city that is a primary division of a state and legally not part of any county. The Census Bureau treats an independent city as both a county equivalent and MCD equivalent for data tabulation purposes. *See also incorporated place.*

**Independent place** An incorporated place that legally is not part of any MCD. The Census Bureau treats independent places as a primary division of a county and an MCD equivalent for data tabulation purposes. *See also dependent place, incorporated place.*

**Indian reservation** *See American Indian reservation.*

**Intermediate/middle school district** A school district inclusive of the fifth through eighth grade, the sixth through the ninth grade, the seventh and eighth grades, or the seventh through ninth grade. The Census Bureau did not provide a separate identification of intermediate/middle school districts in its 1990 census tabulations. *See also elementary school district, school district, secondary school district, unified district.*

**Internal point** A coordinate value for a point that lies within its geographic area; where possible, the internal point also is a centroid.

**LAND** Landmark Feature Identification Number

**Legal entity** A geographic entity whose boundaries, name, origin, and political/statistical area description result from charters, laws, treaties, or other administrative or governmental action. In earlier censuses, often referred to as a political area or entity. Legal entities include states, counties, minor civil divisions, American Indian reservations, and Alaska Native Regional Corporations. *See also administrative entity, statistical entity.*

**Legislative district** An area from which a person is elected to serve in a state legislative body. *See also voting district.*

**Linear feature** A feature, such as a railroad, road, street, stream, pipeline, or boundary that can be represented by a line in a geographic data base.

**MA** *See metropolitan area.*

**MA code** The NIST issues numeric FIPS codes for MAs. FIPS codes MSAs and PMSAs (and NECMAs) are four-digit codes; CMSAs are assigned two-digit FIPS codes. NIST also has made available an alternative set of four-digit codes for CMSAs. *See also Federal Information Processing Standards, Geographic Identification Code Scheme.*

**MCD** *See minor civil division.*

**Metropolitan area (MA)** A collective term, established by the Federal OMB and used for the first time in 1990, to refer to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). In addition, there is an alternative set of areas termed NECMAs.

**Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)** A geographic entity, defined by the Federal OMB for use by Federal statistical agencies, based on the concept of a core area with a large population nucleus, plus adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Qualification of an MSA requires the presence of a city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or the presence of a UA and a total population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). The county or counties containing the largest city and surrounding densely settled territory are central counties of the MSA. Additional outlying counties qualify to be included in the MSA by meeting certain other criteria of metropolitan character, such as a specified minimum population density or percentage of the population that is urban. MSAs in New England are defined in terms of cities and towns, following rules concerning commuting and population density. MSAs were first defined and effective June 30, 1983. *See also consolidated metropolitan statistical area, metropolitan area, metropolitan statistical area, primary metropolitan statistical area.*

**Minor civil division (MCD)** A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of a county in 28 states, created to govern or administer an area rather than a specific population. The several types of MCDs are identified by a variety of terms, such as town, township, and district, and include both functioning and nonfunctioning governmental units. Many MCDs represent local, general-purpose governmental units, which makes them required areas for presentation of decennial census data. *See also census county division, county subdivision, incorporated place, independent place, unorganized territory.*

**Minor civil division (MCD) code** A three-digit numeric code assigned by the Census Bureau to identify each MCD within a county (the Census Bureau assigns the codes based on the alphabetical sequence of the MCD names); also, a five-digit numeric code assigned by the NIST to identify

populated places, primary county divisions, and other locational entities within a state. The NIST assigns the codes based on the alphabetic sequence of the entity names; it documents these codes in FIPS 55. *See also Geographic Identification Coding Scheme, Federal Information Processing Standard.*

**MSA** *See metropolitan statistical area.*

**Municipio** A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of Puerto Rico; the Census Bureau treats the municipio as the statistical equivalent of a county.

**Parish** A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of Louisiana, similar to a county in other states.

**PL** *See Public Law.*

**Place** A concentration of population either legally bounded as an incorporated place, or identified by the Census Bureau as a CDP. Incorporated places have political/statistical descriptions of borough (except in Alaska and New York), city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), or village. *See also census designated place, incorporated place.*

**Place code** A four-digit code assigned by the Census Bureau to identify each incorporated or census designated place within a state (the Census Bureau assigns the codes based on the alphabetic sequence of the place names). Also, the five-digit numeric code assigned by the NIST to identify populated places, primary county divisions, and other locational entities within a state. The NIST assigns the codes based on the alphabetic sequence of the entity names; it documents the codes in FIPS PUB 55. *See also Geographic Identification Code Scheme, Federal Information Processing Standard.*

**PMSA** *See primary metropolitan statistical area.*

**POLYID** Polygon Identification Number

**Primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA)** A geographic entity defined by the Federal OMB for use by Federal statistical agencies. If an area meets the requirements to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and has a population of one million or more, two or more PMSAs may be defined within it if statistical criteria are met and local opinion is in favor. A PMSA consists of a large urbanized county, or a cluster of such counties (cities and towns in New England) that have substantial commuting interchange. When one or more PMSAs have been recognized, the balance of the original, larger area becomes an additional PMSA; the larger area of which they are components then is designated a consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA). PMSAs were first defined and effective on June 30, 1983.

**Public Law** Laws of the United States that may be referenced by number, such as PL 94-171 (the 171 law passed by the 94<sup>th</sup> Congress).

**Rural** The population and territory outside any UA and the urban part of any place with a decennial census population of 2,500 or more. *See also place, urban, urban place, urbanized area.*

**Rural place** Any incorporated place or CDP located outside a UA and having fewer than 2,500 residents in the most recent decennial census. *See also census designated place, incorporated place, urban place.*

**School district** The territory administered by the elected or appointed authorities of a state, county, or other local governmental unit to provide educational services to a resident population. A school district typically includes several school buildings, teachers, and related staff. The Census Bureau provided data tabulations for school districts from the 1970, 1980, and 1990 censuses.

**SDTS** *See Spatial Data Transfer Standard.*

**Secondary school district** A school district inclusive of only high school (either the ninth through the twelfth grades or the tenth through the twelfth grades). *See also elementary school district, intermediate/middle school district, school district, unified district.*

**Spatial Data Transfer Standard** Released by NIST as FIPS PUB 173, this standard governs the exchange of geographic information between federal agencies.

**State/state** A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of the United States.

**State code** A two-digit FIPS code assigned by the NIST to identify each state and statistically equivalent entity. The NIST assigns the codes based on the alphabetic sequence of state names (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Island Territories appear at the end); it documents these codes in a FIPS publication (FIPS PUB 5). Also, a two-digit code assigned by the Census Bureau to identify each state within its census geographic division (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Island Territories appear at the end). *See also Federal Information Processing Standard, Geographic Identification Code Scheme.*

**State equivalent** A type of governmental unit treated by the Census Bureau as if it were a state for purposes of data presentation. For the 1990 decennial census, the state equivalents included the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. *See also State/state.*

**Statistical entity** Any specially defined geographic entity or combination of entities, such as a block group, BNA, CCD, CDP, census tract, or UA, for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. Statistical entity boundaries are not legally defined and the entities have no governmental standing.

**Statistically equivalent entity** A type of geographic entity that, for purposes of data tabulation and presentation, the Census Bureau treats as the counterpart of a similar type of entity; for example, in Louisiana (which has no counties) the parish is the statistical equivalent of a county.

**STF** *See Summary Tape File.*



**Summary Tape File (STF)** One of a series of computer files containing large amounts of decennial census data for the various levels of the Census Bureau's geographic hierarchy.

**TAZ** *See Traffic Analysis Zone.*

**TDSA** *See Tribal Designated Statistical Area.*

**TIGER** Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing

**TJSA** *See Tribal Jurisdiction Statistical Area.*

**TLID** TIGER/Line<sup>®</sup> Record Identification Number

**Topology** One component of the science of mathematics dealing with geometric configurations (nodes, complete chains, and polygons) that do not vary when transformed through bending, stretching, or mapping at various scales. *See also geometry, geometry and topology.*

**Town** A type of functioning MCD found in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin; a type of incorporated place in 30 states and the Virgin Islands of the United States. In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota, the Census Bureau treats these towns as the equivalent of an MCD. *See also county subdivision, dependent place, incorporated place, independent place.*

**Township (civil or governmental)** A type of functioning MCD in 12 states, a type of nonfunctioning MCD in 3 states (Arkansas, New Hampshire, and North Carolina), and a type of county subdivision that can be functioning and nonfunctioning in Missouri. (There also are nonfunctioning survey townships in Maine, but these are not recognized by the Census Bureau for data tabulation purposes.) In states where land was subdivided under the public land survey system, many townships correspond to the survey townships. *See also county subdivision, minor civil division.*

**Traffic analysis zone (TAZ)** A special-purpose geographic entity delineated by a metropolitan planning organization for tabulating transportation statistics from the decennial census.

**Tribal designated statistical area (TDSA)** A statistical entity delineated for the 1990 decennial census by an American Indian tribe recognized by the Federal Government or a state government when that tribe does not have a land base (reservation). It encompasses the area that includes the American Indian population over which the tribe has jurisdiction. A TDSA cannot overlap with a federal or state reservation or American Indian trust land; it also cannot cross a state line, and must be delineated following census block boundaries. *See also tribal jurisdiction statistical area.*

**Tribal jurisdiction statistical area (TJSA)** A statistical area identified and delineated for the 1990 decennial census by American Indian tribal officials in Oklahoma. They encompass the area that includes the American Indian population over which the tribe has jurisdiction. TJSAs replaced the Historic Areas of Oklahoma recognized by the Census Bureau for the 1980 decennial census. *See also tribal designated statistical area.*

**UA** *See urbanized area.*

**UA code** A four-digit numeric code assigned by the Census Bureau to identify UAs. *See also Federal Information Processing Standards, Geographic Identification Code Scheme.*

**Unified district** A school district inclusive of kindergarten through twelfth grade. *See also school district.*

**Unincorporated place** *See census designated place.*

**United States Geological Survey (USGS)** The USGS is a bureau of the US Department of the Interior, and is the Nation's main topographic mapping agency.

**United States Postal Service (USPS)** An independent corporation of the US Government, the USPS provides mail processing and delivery services to individuals and businesses in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Island Territories.

**Unorganized territory (UT)** The statistical equivalent of an MCD encompassing contiguous area that is not within any organized MCD or an incorporated place. The Census Bureau identified UTs in nine states for the 1990 census.

**Urban** All population and territory within the boundaries of UAs and the urban portion of places outside of UAs that have a decennial census population of 2,500 or more. *See also rural, urban place, urbanized area.*

**Urban place** Any place with a decennial census population of 2,500 or more, whether incorporated or census designated (a CDP), and any place regardless of population located within a UA. Some urban places (extended cities) contain territory that is not designated as urban. *See also place, rural place, urbanized area.*

**Urbanized area (UA)** An area consisting of a central place(s) and adjacent urban fringe that together have a minimum residential population of at least 50,000 people and generally an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile of land area. The Census Bureau uses published criteria to determine the qualification and boundaries of UAs. *See also urban, urban place.*

**USGS** *See United States Geological Survey.*

**USPS** *See United States Postal Service.*

**UT** *See Unorganized Territory.*

**Voting district (VTD)** Any of a variety of areas, such as election districts, precincts, legislative districts, or wards, established by states and local governments for voting purposes. The 1990 census term voting district replaces the 1980 term election precinct. *See also administrative entity.*

**VTD** *See Voting district.*

**ZIP (Zone Improvement Plan) Code** A five-, seven-, nine-, or eleven-digit code assigned by the US Postal Service to a section of a street, a collection of streets, an establishment, structure, or group of post office boxes, for the delivery of mail.